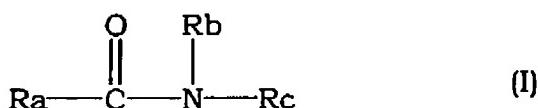


Amendments to the Claims

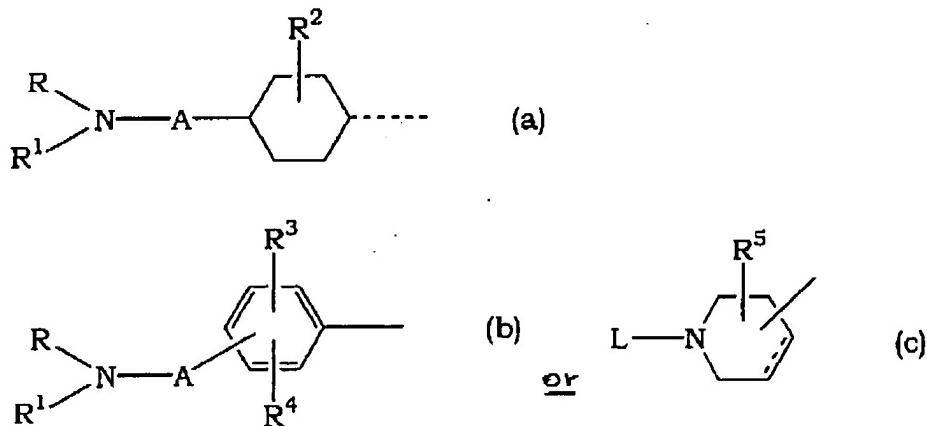
Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of interstitial pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity to a patient, wherein the compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity is an amide compound of the following formula (I),



wherein

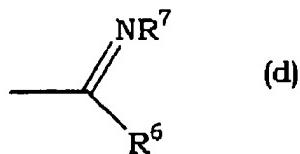
Ra is a group of the formula



in the formulas (a) and (b),

R is hydrogen, alkyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,

phenyl or aralkyl, which optionally has a substituent on the ring, or a group of the formula



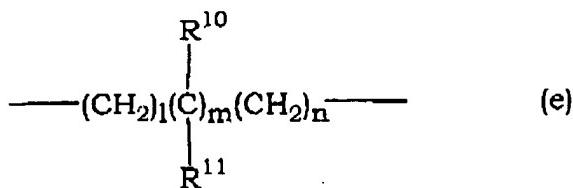
wherein R⁶ is hydrogen, alkyl or the formula: -NR⁸R⁹ wherein R⁸ and R⁹ are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl or phenyl, R⁷ is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, phenyl, nitro or cyano, or R⁶ and R⁷ in combination show a group forming a heterocycle optionally having, in the ring, oxygen atom, sulfur atom or optionally substituted nitrogen atom,

R¹ is hydrogen, alkyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or aralkyl, which optionally has a substituent on the ring, or R and R¹ in combination form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a group forming a heterocycle optionally having, in the ring, oxygen atom, sulfur atom or optionally substituted nitrogen atom,

R² is hydrogen or alkyl,

R³ and R⁴ are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, halogen, nitro, amino, alkylamino, acylamino, hydroxy, alkoxy, aralkyloxy, cyano, acyl, mercapto, alkylthio, aralkylthio, carboxy, alkoxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl or azide, and

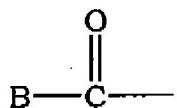
A is a group of the formula



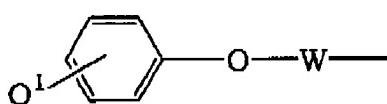
wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxy or alkoxy carbonyl, or R¹⁰ and R¹¹ show a group which forms cycloalkyl in combination and l, m and n are each 0 or an integer of 1-3,

in the formula (c),

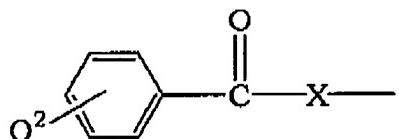
L is hydrogen, alkyl, aminoalkyl, mono- or dialkylaminoalkyl, tetrahydrofurfuryl, carbamoylalkyl, phthalimidoalkyl, amidino or a group of the formula



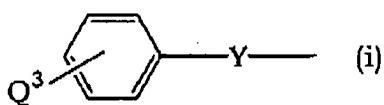
(f)



(g)



(h)

or

(i)

wherein B is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aralkyl, aralkyloxy, aminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkanoyloxy-alkyl, alkoxy carbonylalkyl, α -aminobenzyl, furyl, pyridyl, phenyl, phenylamino, styryl or imidazopyridyl,

Q¹ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, aralkyloxy or thienylmethyl,

W is alkylene,

Q^2 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy or aralkyloxy,
 X is alkylene,
 Q^3 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, nitro, amino,
2,3-dihydrofuryl or 5-methyl-3-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydropyridazin-6-yl;
and Y is a single bond, alkylene or alkenylene, and

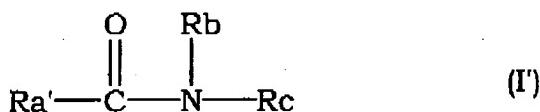
in the formula (c),

a broken line is a single bond or a double bond, and

R^5 is hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyloxy, alkanoyloxy or aralkyloxycarbonyloxy;
 R_b is a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aralkyl, an aminoalkyl or a mono- or dialkylaminoalkyl; and
 R_c is an optionally substituted heterocycle containing nitrogen,

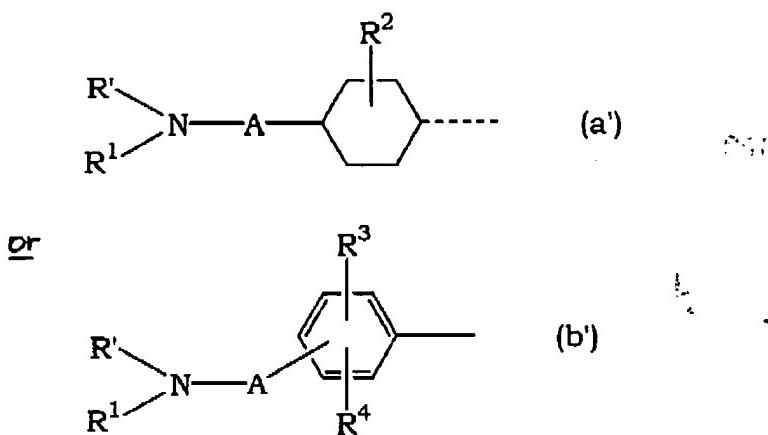
an isomer thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

13. (Currently amended) The method for the prophylaxis and treatment of interstitial pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis of claim 12, wherein the compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity is an amide compound of the following formula (I')



wherein

Ra' is a group of the formula



wherein

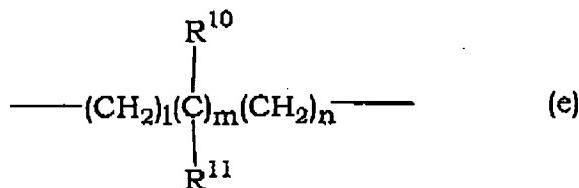
R' is hydrogen, alkyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or aralkyl, which optionally has a substituent on the ring,

R^1 is hydrogen, alkyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or aralkyl, which optionally has a substituent on the ring, or R' and R^1 in combination form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a group forming a heterocycle optionally having, in the ring, oxygen atom, sulfur atom or optionally substituted nitrogen atom,

R^2 is hydrogen or alkyl,

R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, halogen, nitro, amino, alkylamino, acylamino, hydroxy, alkoxy, aralkyloxy, cyano, acyl, mercapto, alkylthio, aralkylthio, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl or azide, and

A is a group of the formula



wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxy or alkoxy carbonyl, or R¹⁰ and R¹¹ show a group which forms cycloalkyl in combination and l, m and n are each 0 or an integer of 1-3,

Rb is a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aralkyl, an aminoalkyl or a mono- or dialkylaminoalkyl; and

Rc is an optionally substituted heterocycle containing nitrogen,

an isomer thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

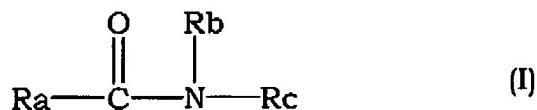
14. (Currently amended) The method for the prophylaxis and treatment of interstitial pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis of claim 12, wherein the compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity is a compound selected from the group consisting of (+)-trans-4-(1-aminoethyl)-1-(4-pyridylcarbamoyl)cyclohexane, (+)-trans-N-(1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl)-4-(1-aminoethyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide, (R)-(+)-N-(4-pyridyl)-4-(1-aminoethyl)benzamide and (R)-(+)-N-(1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl)-4-(1-aminoethyl)benzamide, and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

15. (Currently amended) The method for the prophylaxis and treatment of interstitial pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis of claim 12, wherein the compound having a Rho kinase

inhibitory activity is a (+)-trans-4-(1-aminoethyl)-1-(4-pyridylcarbamoyl)cyclohexane, and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

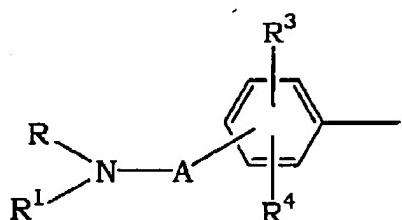
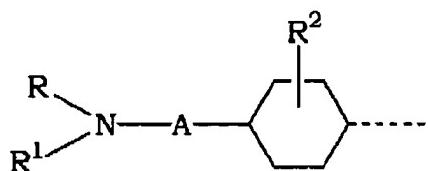
16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for the production of an agent for the prophylaxis and treatment of interstitial pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis, which comprises mixing a compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity is an amide compound of the following formula (I)

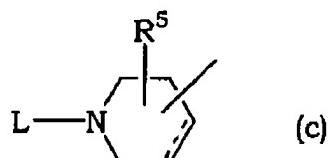


wherein

Ra is a group of the formula

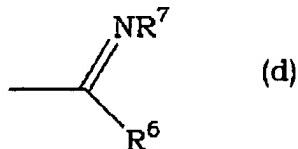


or



in the formulas (a) and (b),

R is hydrogen, alkyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or aralkyl, which optionally has a substituent on the ring, or a group of the formula



wherein R⁶ is hydrogen, alkyl or formula : -NR⁸R⁹ wherein

R⁸ and R⁹ are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl or phenyl, R⁷ is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, phenyl, nitro or cyano, or R⁶ and R⁷ in combination show a group forming a heterocycle optionally having, in the ring, oxygen atom, sulfur atom or optionally substituted nitrogen atom,

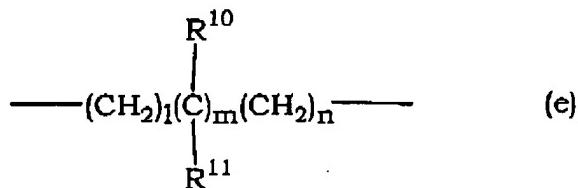
R¹ is hydrogen, alkyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or aralkyl, which optionally has a substituent

on the ring, or R and R¹ in combination form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a group forming a heterocycle optionally having, in the ring, oxygen atom, sulfur atom or optionally substituted nitrogen atom,

R² is hydrogen or alkyl,

R³ and R⁴ are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, halogen, nitro, amino, alkylamino, acylamino, hydroxy, alkoxy, aralkyloxy, cyano, acyl, mercapto, alkylthio, aralkylthio, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl or azide, and

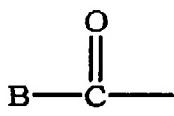
A is a group of the formula



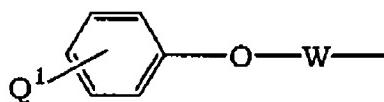
wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxy or alkoxycarbonyl, or R¹⁰ and R¹¹ show a group which forms cycloalkyl in combination and l, m and n are each 0 or an integer of 1-3,

in the formula (c),

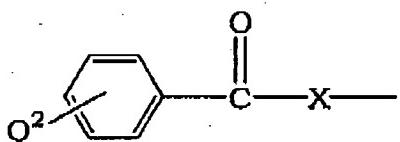
L is hydrogen, alkyl, aminoalkyl, mono- or dialkylaminoalkyl, tetrahydrofurfuryl, carbamoylalkyl, phthalimidoalkyl, amidino or a group of the formula



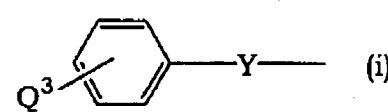
(f)



(g)



(h)

or

(i)

wherein B is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aralkyl, aralkyloxy, aminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkanoyloxy-alkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, α -aminobenzyl, furyl, pyridyl, phenyl, phenylamino, styryl or imidazopyridyl,

Q^1 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, aralkyloxy or thienylmethyl,

W is alkylene,

Q^2 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy or aralkyloxy,

X is alkylene,

Q^3 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, nitro, amino, 2,3-dihydrofuryl or 5-methyl-3-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydropyridazin-6-yl;

and Y is a single bond, alkylene or alkenylene, and

in the formula (c),

a broken line is a single bond or a double bond, and

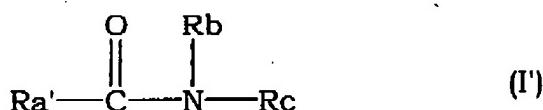
R^5 is hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyloxy, alkanoyloxy or aralkyloxycarbonyloxy;

Rb is a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aralkyl, an aminoalkyl or a mono- or dialkylaminoalkyl; and

Rc is an optionally substituted heterocycle containing nitrogen,

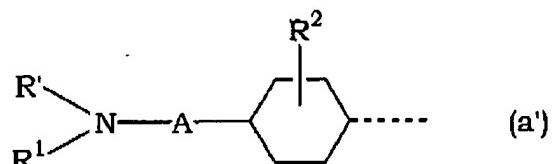
an isomer thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity is an amide compound of the following formula (I')

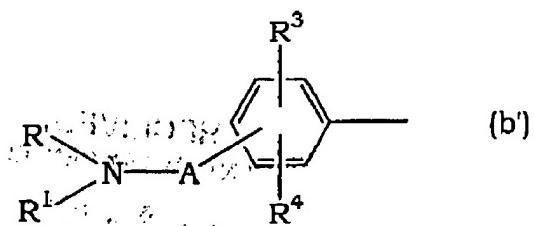


wherein

Ra' is a group of the formula



or



wherein

R' is hydrogen, alkyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or aralkyl, which optionally has a substituent

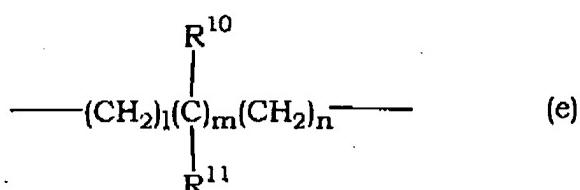
on the ring.

R^1 is hydrogen, alkyl, or cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, phenyl or aralkyl, which optionally has a substituent on the ring, or R' and R^1 in combination form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, a group forming a heterocycle optionally having, in the ring, oxygen atom, sulfur atom or optionally substituted nitrogen atom,

R^2 is hydrogen or alkyl,

R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, halogen, nitro, amino, alkylamino, acylamino, hydroxy, alkoxy, aralkyloxy, cyano, acyl, mercapto, alkylthio, aralkylthio, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl or azide, and

A is a group of the formula



wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are the same or different and each is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxy or alkoxycarbonyl, or R^{10} and R^{11} show a group which forms cycloalkyl in combination and l , m and n are each 0 or an integer of 1-3,

R_b is a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aralkyl, an aminoalkyl or a mono- or dialkylaminoalkyl; and

R_c is an optionally substituted heterocycle containing

nitrogen,
an isomer thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity is a compound selected from the group consisting of (+)-trans-4-(1-aminoethyl)-1-(4-pyridylcarbamoyl)cyclohexane, (+)-trans-N-(1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl)-4-(1-aminoethyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide, (R)-(+)N-(4-pyridyl)-4-(1-aminoethyl)benzamide and (R)-(+)N-(1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl)-4-(1-aminoethyl)benzamide, and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the compound having a Rho kinase inhibitory activity is a (+)-trans-4-(1-aminoethyl)-1-(4-pyridylcarbamoyl)cyclohexane, and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

21. (Cancelled)